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Invited Talk - Wednesday 10:00 AM - Ft. Worth 3-4

Nonlinear theory of ion-induced solid flow

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Ion beam sputtering (IBS) is a powerful technique employed to induce surface nanopatterns over relatively large areas for a wide range of materials [1]. This approach has many applications in modern technology like magnetic storage, quantum device design or, for example, producing the selective attachment of specific molecules to substrates, with implications in biology and catalysis. For materials like semiconductors that become amorphous under low-to-medium-energy irradiation, a description of IBS surface nanopatterning based on solid flow [2,3] has been proved to successfully explain many experimental observations [4-6]. This view of the process is based on the fact that, as a consequence of the impact of the ions and the subsequent release of energy within the target, residual stress is confined to a thin superficial amorphous layer and is eventually relaxed in macroscopic time scales via viscous flow. Previous viscous flow models have remained limited to the study of the initial (linear) stages of the morphology evolution. In this contribution, we present a nonlinear theory that extends previous results and describes the dynamics of the morphology during subsequent, nonlinear stages of its time evolution.

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